

**SPORT  
E SALUTE**



## PIAZZA di SIENA

92° CSIO DI ROMA 2025  
MASTER D'INZEO



## PRESS KIT

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### PIAZZA DI SIENA: THE SEVEN-YEAR LONG GREEN PROJECT

It was 2018 when the '**PDS Green Project**' was launched with a new and revolutionary concept in mind; a sporting event model that would find its natural home in the Piazza di Siena Horse Show.

It was a **zero-impact bio-architectural project**, a watershed with respect to the past, which envisaged the use of eco-sustainable materials, with an overall vision to create a striking scenic effect, similar to that of the first competitions in the 1920s. The silica sand covering the surface of the historic arena was replaced by grass, as in its original design and set-up, and the project organisers (**FISE** and **Sport e Salute Spa**) signed an agreement with **Roma Capitale** to maintain the **Piazza di Siena** area throughout the year.



The Horse Show's resources were used to **restore** the splendid old stands around the oval-shaped arena, which, once returned to the city, would again be a place for sport, leisure and socialising for citizens and tourists alike. In addition, the **green areas** were tended, the **walls repaired** and a new fence was erected around the entire perimeter.

But there is more. In fact, the project also featured the complete restoration of the **Galoppatoio** area to its former glory, after years of neglect, drug dealing and prostitution; the aim was to turn it into a venue for equestrian competitions but above all a 'stadium' for polo, a spectacular sport that boosted its attractiveness thanks to Piazza di Siena.

The other momentous change concerns the **public**. In fact, the 'Green Project' is a gift to citizens and fans of equestrian sports who can watch the competitions completely free of charge from the stands or from the sloping areas around the arena. The wooden facilities are designed and positioned with a view to enhancing the natural light, while the relationship of Piazza di Siena with **art and culture** becomes increasingly close, with countless initiatives and 'twinning' projects: from Gnam and the Villa Borghese Museum, to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death, with contemporary artists' reinterpretations of Leonardo's Horse on display along Viale Canonica. So, art and culture, but also a commitment to biodiversity.



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The restoration of **Valle dei Platani** (Valley of Plane trees) was an extraordinary feat. Thanks to this project, these trees were pruned and the land was reclaimed since it was 'poisoned' by waste and pollution to the point of endangering the very life of the 'Sentinels of Rome's Eternity', the 17th-century plane trees. This project, like others, was carried out with the invaluable help of the '**Amici di Villa Borghese**' association, an organisation that has been passionately devoted to the protection of the architectural heritage and greenery of this Park for many years.



In 2020, the year of the pandemic, the Horse Show was put on hold; but despite the dramatic turn of events, the 'Green Project' by Sport e Salute and FISE found an extraordinary new lease of life: the school children from the Villa Borghese used the oval-shaped arena for their physical education activities. Then, when the equestrian events were resumed in Piazza di Siena, biodiversity was once again in the limelight with the '**ZeroDIE**' project: the gravel on the ring around the oval-shaped arena was removed and replaced with grass, which created a huge 'green' 'Zero' in the spectacular image captured by drones, as if to say "No" to Deforestation, Impact and Emissions, hence the acronym DIE.

In 2023, the **grass ring** was merged with the arena thanks to a new turf. At the same time, the organisers invested over € 2 million on a major, extraordinary project: Mostra dell'Acqua Felix, known as 'Fontana dei Leoni' located at the corner of Viale Canonica and Piazza delle Canestre, was completely restored and upgraded, along with the walls around the square. The result is breath-taking; the restoration team brought back to light the bas-reliefs, the fountains with dragon heads and the pink marble works of the basins, all made of precious marble extracted from now exhausted quarries; hence with an inestimable artistic value.



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Meanwhile, Sport e Salute signed an **agreement** with Roma Capitale to maintain the “horizontal greenery” of the area that stretches from Piazza di Siena just up to Via Pinciana; the turf in the historic oval-shaped arena would be tended with a series of interventions such as reseeded, sanding, loosening, fertilisation and application of root bio-active and stimulating agents. This allows citizens and tourists to use it as a real '**open-air gym**' where to enjoy recreational and sporting activities.

In the 2024 edition, Piazza di Siena once again became an '**art venue**' open to major art exhibitions in the Villa Borghese museums. For the first time, the **Pietro Canonica Museum**, on the opposite side with respect to Casino dell'Orologio, hosted the exhibition curated by Sandro Santolini, 'Questo è Aquilino figlio del vento' (This is Aquilino, son of the wind) from May 22 to September 15, 2024, featuring portraits of the Rospigliosi horses from the Capitoline collections. Moreover, the Piazza di Siena Horse Show was the occasion to showcase a sculptural relief of a rider '**Il Rilievo del Cavaliere**' dating back to the first half of the II century AD. This piece of work, still on display in the Casino dell'Orologio, consisted of eleven fragments that had been kept “dormant” in a store since 1989, before being skilfully restored thanks to the collaboration between the organisers of the Piazza di Siena Horse Show, FISE and **Roma Capitale - Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali** (Capitoline Superintendence for Cultural Heritage). It is the relief of a young rider wearing a scale armour and lion-skin boots, holding the reins of a horse in his right hand.



His head, turned towards the horse, originally belonged to another ancient sculptural work. The type of armour, the exquisite horse fittings, the remains of the mysterious rider and, above all, the fact that the head was not part of the original work, became a real mystery, which led to many speculations. According to one of these, the rider was a figure of the highest rank, fuelling a debate about his mysterious identity; the most evocative hypothesis postulated that the young man might be Emperor Trajan.

For the **2025** edition, the project has envisaged the **restoration of 'Fontana dei Pupazzi'** and other important maintenance works of the oval-shaped arena and of its surrounding areas.



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### THE HISTORY OF THE CSIO

**Piazza di Siena** takes its name from the city of origin of one of the most ancient and noble families of Rome: the Borghese. At the end of 16th century, Prince Marcantonio Borghese commissioned architects Mario and Antonio Asprucci to create a new location, one able to remind him of the places he loved most. He wished, in fact, to bring to the city of Rome the traditional popular celebrations that had been enjoyed since the Middle Ages in Tuscany. Unfortunately Prince Marcantonio died before it was completed.



Piazza di Siena's debut in equestrian events started in **1922**, but it was only in 1926 that the **International Equestrian Federation** included the Roman competition in the international calendar and the official listing of the **Rome CSIO** began. After three editions held at a different location, in **1929** the horse show returned in Piazza di Siena. Some of the most important events in the history of Italian equestrian sports took place in this public park, considered the largest and more elegant among Rome's: unforgettable shows, with extraordinary leading riders such as **Bettoni, d'Inzeo brothers** and **Graziano Mancinelli** as well as other standard bearers of this noble sport.

The horse show was suspended between 1941 and 1946, during World War II as well as in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 1960, while Piazza di Siena hosted equestrian events for the **Rome Olympic Game**, the C.S.I.O. was moved to Turin. In 1998 instead, the International Official Horse Show was replaced by the World Equestrian Games held in the Flaminio Stadium.

In **2000**, however, Piazza di Siena had the privilege of organizing two CSIOs, one in May and one in October, hosting the final of the Super Samsung League.



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### PIAZZA DI SIENA, ONE OF THE 'SEVEN WONDERS' OF THE ROLEX SERIES

The **2025 Rolex Series**, launched last year in Piazza di Siena, has expanded to include **seven** of the world's most prestigious international horse shows: **Brussels** in Belgium, **Dinard** and **La Baule** in France, **Dublin** in Ireland, **Falsterbo** in Sweden, **Rome** and **Wellington** in the USA.



These world-renowned events have a longstanding tradition and high organisational standards and have been won by the most famous riders in the history of show jumping.

The **CSI5\* of Wellington** is the kick-off of the 2025 series with the **Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix** on Saturday, March 29, the final competition of the Winter Equestrian Festival; but **Piazza di Siena** is already in the spotlight, the first of the events on the Old Continent, with the **Rolex Gran Premio Roma on Sunday, May 25**.

After the Rome Master d'Inzeo CSI05\*, it is the turn of the **Jumping International de La Baule** (June 4/8) and of the **Falsterbo Horse Show**, the new entry for 2025 (July 10/13).

The Rolex Series returns to France in July (24/27) for the **Jumping International de Dinard** CSI5\*, and then in August moves to the **RDS Dublin Horse Show** CSI05\* (August 6/10) and to the **Brussels Stephex Masters** CSI5\* (August 27/31).



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### TEN CLASSES FOR OVER ONE MILLION EUROS' WORTH OF PRIZE MONEY

The 92nd edition of the **Rome Piazza di Siena - Master d'Inzeo CSIO5\*** is the highlight of the rich program of competitions taking place in Piazza di Siena and the Galoppatoio area, thus transforming Villa Borghese in an extraordinary attraction for equestrian sports fans from all over the world.

The prestige of the historic **Piazza di Siena** horse show is further enhanced by its inclusion in the **Rolex Series**, launched last year, which features seven events considered to be among the elite in the international show jumping calendar. The circuit includes **Rome**, **La Baule** and **Dinard** in France, **Dublin** in Ireland, **Falsterbo** in Sweden, **Brussels** in Belgium and **Wellington** in Florida, USA.



The ten classes of the CSIO5\* will again offer **over one million euros'** worth of prize money this year.

The international sporting program kicks off at Piazza di Siena on **Thursday May 22**. The series opens with a 'winning round' competition, **Premio Safe Riding**, over 1.45m jumps and 29,000 euros in prize money. The first horse will enter the arena at 8:00 a.m., followed by two other events: **Premio MAG**, a two-phase competition (1.45m), and **Premio Range Rover**, an over the clock competition (1.50m), qualifying for Sunday's Gran Prix, with 29,000 and 30,000 euros' worth of prize money respectively.

On **Friday May 23**, the five-star CSIO of Rome gets into full swing. Friday is the day of the eagerly awaited **Intesa Sanpaolo Nations Cup**, consisting of two rounds (the first, starting at 2.30 p.m., qualifying for the Grand Prix) with **220,000 euros** in prize money. Ten teams are ready to vie over the 1.60-metre jumping course designed by **Uliano Vezzani** for a prestigious place in the roll of honour of this historic competition: Argentina, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, the United States, Switzerland and, of course, Italy.



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On Friday, the day of the Intesa Sanpaolo Nations Cup will open in the morning at the Galoppatoio with Premio **Telepass**, an 'accumulator competition with joker' over a 1.45m jumping course (€10,000), followed by Premio **ENI** in Piazza di Siena, an over the clock competition with 1.55m jumps (€33,000), also qualifying for the Grand Prix.

**Saturday May 24** will also be a day of highly technical competition, featuring three exciting categories in the Piazza di Siena oval-shaped arena. The day will start with Premio **KEP Italia**, an over the clock competition over 1.45m jumps (€15,000), followed by the challenging **Trofeo Loro Piana**, with 105,500 euros' worth of prize money. Trofeo Loro Piana is a mixed category over a 1.55m course, where to qualify for Sunday's Grand Prix and to get points for the special Premio Master d'Inzeo, named after the two great brothers, in its eleventh edition in 2025. The day will end with a spectacular show, the exciting **Six Bars Loro Piana** (€20,000).



**Sunday 25 May** will feature the grand finale with the coveted and lucrative **Rolex Rome Grand Prix**, with **500,000 euros'** worth of prize money. Fifty riders will compete from 12:30 pm on the Piazza di Siena turf in a Grand Prix of extraordinary sporting prestige that can shape an entire career in equestrian sports.

The reason is wonderfully simple: the two rounds over a 1.60m course are not only worth the triumph in the historic oval-shaped arena and a fantastic prize money amount, but also and above all a place as a legend in the global show jumping scene.

Click [HERE](#) for the timetable



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### TEN NATIONS VYING FOR THE CUP

Piazza di Siena lives up to its reputation. This year, the 92nd edition of the **Rome Piazza - Master d'Inzeo CSIO** features again a stellar list of riders from abroad, evidence of its enduring appeal and its ability to consistently attract many of the world's most famous contenders.



In fact, the 74 athletes from **18 countries** (10 with a team; 8 on an individual basis) include **six riders in the top ten** and the best female rider in the FEI international ranking, the American **Laura Kraut** (19th). They are the British rider **Ben Maher** (number 2) followed by the Swiss aces **Steve Guerdat** (number 5) and **Martin Fuchs** (number 6), the successful **Max Kühner** from Austria (number 7), the American **McLain Ward** (number 8) and **Cian O'Connor** from Ireland (number 10).

Ben Maher and Laura Kraut are part of the two teams most likely to win the 2025 **Intesa Sanpaolo Nations Cup**. Maher will compete for the **British team** in Rome, with another champion rider, **Scott Brash**, his mate in his gold medal winning team at the 2024 Paris Games, and with the strong contender **Ellen Whitaker** and **Robert Murphy**.

Laura Kraut's **U.S. team** mates are the rising star **Lillie Keenan**, and **Karl Cook** and **McLain Ward**, both well known to the fans in Rome for winning the **Gran Premio Roma** in 2024 and in 2016 respectively. Moreover, the Kraut, Cook and Ward trio was in the silver medal-winning team in Paris in 2024.

According to the statistics, Great Britain holds 11 victories (the last two in 2015 and 2016) and the United States 5, last time on the top step of the podium in 2009.

The other team to watch is **Germany**, the winner of last year's edition with its 11 victories, which features again **Jorne Sprehe**, two female riders **Katrin Eckermann** and **Janne Friederike Meyer-Zimmermann**, along with **Mario Stevens**.



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Then **France**, with its 20 victories in the Nations Cup in Rome, the last time in 2022, second only to Italy with 29 first places; it will compete with a brand-new team featuring champions such as **Kevin Staut**, **Olivier Perreau** (member of the bronze medal-winning team in Paris in 2024), **Antoine Ermann** and the new French national champion, the 25-year-old **Nina Mallevaey**.

**Switzerland** will count on the aforementioned **Steve Guerdat** and **Martin Fuchs**, and on **Bryan Balsiger** to chase a victory that has eluded them since 1994, while the **Netherlands** will deploy the **Michel** and **Willem Greeve** brothers, **Hessel Hoekstra** and **Kim Emmen**.



Kim Emmen is one of the **19 female riders** in the competition, together with other international show jumping stars such as Australia's **Edwina Tops Alexander** the Belgian sisters **Zoe and Emile Conter**, Sweden's **Petronella Andersson** and **Wilma Hellstrom**, Norway's **Marit Haarr Skollerud Cox** and Italy's **Giulia Martinengo Marquet**, the top Italian rider in the FEI world ranking (43rd).

**Brazil** returns to Piazza di Siena with a team led by one of the most cherished riders by the public in Rome, **Rodrigo Pessoa**, who has a special connection with the Eternal City, thanks to his greatest achievements obtained here: in 1998, with his world title victory and in 2009, with his first place in the Gran Premio Roma. And then there is also **Argentina** with José Maria Jr and Matias Larocca, father and son, and Mariano Ossa, an Argentina born national adopted by Italy.

The Nations Cup ten team starting list also includes **Italy**, with its historic double victory in the 2017 and 2018 editions, and the **United Arab Emirates**; this team is no longer considered as an “outsider” in top-level competitions such as 5-star CSIO Nations Cups, and its riders are certainly capable of causing problems to their opponents.



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### TEAM ITALIA'S RIDERS

Participating in the Master d'Inzeo CSIO in Rome is one of the most ambitious goals for any equestrian athlete, and it is almost a career-making event for Italian riders.

This year's starting list features 26 Italian riders, including three debutants and five women.

However, all fans are eagerly waiting for the quartet that will make up the Nations Cup team on Friday, May 23. The four aces are **Giacomo Casadei** with Marbella du Chabli, **Emanuele Gaudiano** with Chalou's Love PS, **Giulia Martinengo Marquet** with Delta dell'Isle and **Paolo Painsi** with Casal Dorato.



**Giacomo Casadei** is the youngest of the four (he was born on September 1, 2002), he was already part of the team at Piazza di Siena last year (his first time) with Marbella du Chabli. Even though he is only 22, he already competed in the Rome CSIO six times; and this year, again with Marbella du Chabli, he was member of the Italian team in the LLN Nations Cup in Ocala, USA.

**Emanuele Gaudiano** has participated fourteen times in this event since his debut in 2007, six times as team member. Now he is back in the team after two years (the last time in 2023 when Italy placed second). He will compete with Chalou's Love PS, a horse in its first CSIO and in its first Nations Cup of its career. Emanuele Gaudiano won the Nations Cup in Rome in 2018, also with Giulia Martinengo Marquet in the team.



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**Giulia Martinengo Marquet** is the “veteran” of the group. She competed in Piazza di Siena seventeen times (her debut dates back to 2005), seven times in the team (as of 2008). She will ride Delta del'Isle with which she already participated in the 2024 Nations Cup edition and in the LLN Nations Cup in Ocala this year.

**Paolo Painsi**, a rider from Modena, returns to the CSIO in Rome after five participations (the last time in 2021), as the winner of Italian Championship title. This year, he is making his Nations Cup debut at Piazza di Siena on Casal Dorato, an Italian horse that grew up under his saddle. He participated in a Nations Cup for the first time in Rabat last September, and then went on to winning the Italian champion title in Cervia.

Another 19 Italian riders will also compete in this event on the individual basis.

**Piergiorgio Bucci**, with the highest number of participations in Piazza di Siena (19), **Emilio Bicocchi** with 18, and **Fabio Brotto** with 10, the same number as **Lorenzo De Luca** who won the 2018 Gran Premio Roma.



The other Italian riders are Filippo Bassan, Giacomo Bassi, Arnaldo Bogni, Omar Bonomelli, Marta Bottanelli, Elisa Chimirri, Federico Ciriesi, Eugenio Grimaldi, Guido Grimaldi, Massimo Grossato, Emiliano Liberati, Nico Lupino, Neri Pieraccini, Riccardo Pisani, as well as the **newcomers**: Davide Vitale, a 19-year-old young rider, Antonia Vita Pinardi and Luca Coata.



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### ROME GRAND PRIX

The **Roll of Honour for the Rome Grand Prix** starts in 1926 with the Polish rider, Adam Krolikiewicz on Picador and ends with American **Karl Cook** who riding Caracole de La Roque, signed the 91th edition of the prestigious Rolex Grand Prix.



Colonel **Piero d'Inzeo** is the recordman for this Grand Prix. The eldest of the d'Inzeo brothers, won it **seven times riding six different horses**.

As for the horses, the highest number of victories (three) goes to the French gelding, **Flambeau C**, ridden by **Frédéric Cottier**.

**Italian riders** have won the Rome Grand Prix **23 times** (last time with **Lorenzo De Luca** in 2018), following by **French** (20 times) and 11 **German** wins achieved by ten different riders since **Franke Sloothaak** won the Rome Grand Prix two years in a row in 1995 and 1996. **Great Britain** has won it six time and **America** and Ireland five.

The Rome Grand Prix has been won by **ladies** on six occasions with Anne Kursinski, Margie Goldstein-Engle and Chiara Bronfman (USA), Vicky Roycroft (AUS), Helena Weinberg (GER) and Eugenie Angot (FRA).

Click [HERE](#) for the [Rome Grand Prix Roll of Honour](#)



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### ROME NATIONS CUP

In 91th edition of the CSIO in Rome, **Germany scored its eleventh victory** in Piazza di Siena. In the roll of honour of the prestigious Roman team competition, **Italy** is still in the lead with 29 victories (the last two in 2017 and 2018) followed by **France** (first in 2022) with 20, **Great Britain** and **Germany** with 11.



The **US** teams took five victories, **Switzerland** three, **Belgium**, **Sweden** and the **Netherlands** two, while **Mexico**, **Spain**, **Turkey**, **Ukraine** and now **Ireland** have one each.

The Nations Cup at Piazza di Siena, **titled Sanpaolo since 2018**, is with no doubt the most fascinating date in the programme of every equestrian competition and only takes place within the **CSIO format**. In the history of the Roman Nations Cup, **30** nations entered at least **one** team.

Click [HERE](#) for the [Rome Nations Cup Roll of Honour](#)



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### MASTER D'INZEO

In the last **ten consecutive years** the CSIO Roma has been named '**Master d'Inzeo**' as a renewed tribute owed to the Dioscuri of Italian equestrian sports in the same Piazza di Siena where they've been extraordinary protagonists. In Villa Borghese, the avenue that leads to the piazza from Piazzale dei Cavalli Marini, which dominates the arena, has also been named after **Piero** and **Raimondo d'Inzeo**.



To celebrate these two great champions at the Roman international show, the d'Inzeo family awards a special prize to the rider who scores the best overall individual results in the most important classes: the Trofeo Loro Piana, scheduled on Saturday May 24th, and the Rolex Grand Prix of Rome, on Sunday May 25th.

Every year will be renewed the tribute on Raimondo d'Inzeo, he is still the record holder in Piazza di Siena with 64 class wins.

#### Master d'Inzeo Roll of Honour

2024 - Kark Cook USA

2023 - Andre Thieme GER

2022 - Denis Lynch IRL

2021 - David Will GER

2019 - Kent Farrington USA

2018 - **Lorenzo De Luca** ITA

2017 - **Lorenzo De Luca** ITA

2016 - McLain Ward USA

2015 - Laura Kraut USA

2014 - Alexander Zetterman SWE



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### HIGH IN THE SKY WITH THE FRECCHE TRICOLORI

This year will again feature one of the most eagerly awaited moments in the rich program of the CSIO5\* in Rome. On Friday, May 23, just a few minutes before the start of the first round of the **Intesa Sanpaolo Nations Cup**, the **Frecce Tricolori**, the globally renowned **Italian Aerobatic Team**, will fly over Villa Borghese.



After their first historic flight over Villa Borghese during the 2018 CSIO of Rome, the three-colour plumes of the MB-339 P.A.N. Aermacchi of the National Aerobatic Team will again **underline** the international dimension of this event and, at the same time, the strength of the Italian spirit through this show that is the pride and joy of our nation.